

educate the public about proper groundwater and water well stewardship. For private household well owners, stewardship includes regularly testing their well water quality and treating it if necessary. An estimated 95 percent of America's available fresh water is in the form of groundwater.

NGWA is a nonprofit organization composed of more than 12,000 U.S. and international groundwater professionals—contractors, equipment manufacturers, suppliers, scientists, and engineers—is dedicated to advancing groundwater knowledge. NGWA's vision is to be the leading groundwater association that advocates the responsible development, management, and use of water.

Association members will be using Ground Water Awareness Week to participate in a variety of activities and events. I want to thank them for their efforts to preserve, protect and safely utilize this most valuable resource.

ANGIE GIARRATANO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angie Giarratano of Pueblo, Colorado. Before her passing, she was a philanthropist and longtime leader in her community. She raised thousands of dollars for various charities and brought recognition to a number of other causes.

In addition to her philanthropic work, Ms. Giarratano worked full time, raised two children and was an active member of her church. She also was a grandmother to four and great-grandmother to five. Her husband, John Giarratano, was a World War II hero who played an important role in the D-Day invasion. After the war, he became a small business owner and, like his wife, was a key leader in the community. Family was an important part of Ms. Giarratano's life and was one of the reasons she became such a valuable citizen of Pueblo. While raising a family, she volunteered for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and was very active in the American Cancer Society. Ms. Giarratano also worked as the collection manager for the Pueblo Credit and Collection Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Angie Giarratano and her family's legacy. It is an honor to recognize her life today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DANIEL KANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Daniel Kane, who devoted his life to the assistance of others and to improving the well being of the Cleveland community.

Daniel was born and raised in Slavic Village, in the very same house his mother had been raised. Through his commitment to serving others, he helped bring about several sig-

nificant improvements within the community. He founded the Morgana little league, which provided the youth of his community an opportunity to participate in America's pastime, baseball. He also established the first community garden for Slavic Village, which would eventually be named in honor and recognition of his hard work.

Daniel's devotion to his community and country was apparent from the early years of his life. He served his country in the Second World War, risking life and limb. After the war he began to work for the Cleveland Division of Police as a patrolman and would eventually work his way up to the rank of detective. He retired from the force in 1978, but could not be separated from his devotion to the community. He continued to serve as an Investigative Counselor for the Cleveland Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the distinguished life of Daniel Kane, whose legacy of community involvement is admirable. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences to his wife Yolanda and his children, Diane, Donna and Daniel Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR 2010 CIF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Folsom High School Bulldogs Varsity Football Team for their 2010 CIF Division II State Championship win on December 18, 2010.

With their win at the CIF Division II State Championship in Carson, against Serra High School of Gardena, the team joins the level of elite high school football teams in the State. Their win is a source of pride for the students, faculty, and the alumni of Folsom High School, as well as the residents of Folsom.

The Bulldogs had an impressive season in which they attained a 14–1 record. Along the road to the State Championship, the Folsom Bulldogs had one of the greatest playoff runs in Section history. After defeating a solid 6–4 Roseville team 56–13 in the first round, the Bulldogs then steamrolled the 10–1 Vacaville Bulldogs 75–6 in round two. In the Section Semi-finals the Folsom Bulldogs traveled to Atwater to face the 12–0 Buhach Colony Thunder. The Bulldogs defeated the Thunder 55–20. In front of a record crowd of 20,000 plus fans, the Bulldogs battled the nationally ranked Grant Pacers to a 41–20 victory and the Division II Section Championship. Winning the Section Championship in the toughest division in the San Joaquin Section and finishing the season with a 13–1 record earned the Folsom Bulldogs a State Bowl berth. This set the matchup between the 13–1 Folsom Bulldogs and the 14–0 Serra Cavaliers in the Division II State Championship. The Serra Cavaliers came into the State Championship game with a 29-game winning streak. The Folsom Bulldogs proved to be too much for the Cavaliers as the Folsom Bulldogs rolled to a 48–20 victory. This earned the Folsom Bulldogs their first State Championship and a number 5 National Ranking by MaxPreps.

In their 5 postseason games the Folsom Bulldogs faced teams with a combined record of 55–5 and outscored them 275–79. This is an amazing feat by an amazing team. Postseason awards include Dano Graves winning the title of Cal-Hi State Football Player of the Year and the MaxPreps National Player of the Year. Coach Kris Richardson has been honored as the Nike and MaxPreps Division II State Coach of the Year.

This team represents heart, strength, determination, and resilience. I commend Coach Kris Richardson for his leadership throughout the season, and applaud him and his fellow coaches for keeping the team focused and determined to achieve their goal of a state championship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Folsom High School Varsity Football Team.

CONGRATULATING MR. LANE TOKITA FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE CLOSE UP WASHINGTON CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lane Tokita, an outstanding A.P. History teacher at Kauai High School in my district. Mr. Tokita is in Washington this week with his high school students for the Close Up Washington Civic Education Program. The Close Up Foundation is presenting him with an award for his dedication to the program over many years.

Mr. Tokita's students report that his history class is tough but fair. He instills his students with the philosophy that "Quitting is not an option!" I experienced first-hand Mr. Tokita's effectiveness as a teacher when I visited his class. The students impressed me with their enthusiasm and lively participation.

Mr. Tokita is a strong supporter of this program to give students a first-hand experience with democracy in our Nation's capital. Using the Close Up curriculum—tied to state history standards—Mr. Tokita helps his students understand how our democracy works, and inspires them to become more active in their school and community.

Over 95 percent of the program's 500,000 participants have reported that the program helped them better understand their roles as citizens.

I salute Mr. Tokita for his dedication to providing a well-rounded civic education for his students. I have requested to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in his honor.

Congratulations to Mr. Tokita and the many students he has helped influence over the years.

THE VOLUNTARY STATE DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN ACT OF 2011

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with my colleague,

Representative CHELLIE PINGREE, the Voluntary State Discount Prescription Drug Plan Act of 2011—a completely voluntary, common-sense way to offer prescription drugs at affordable prices to millions of Americans currently struggling without prescription drug coverage.

With the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, millions of uninsured Americans will gain access to health insurance and prescription drug coverage. However, the expansion of coverage won't happen until 2014.

In the meantime, high prescription drug costs will continue to be a burden for millions of Americans. This legislation would enable states, at their option, to create state discount prescription drug plans that extend Medicaid-negotiated rebates to citizens up to 300 percent of the poverty line and thereby provide discounts of roughly 40 percent to 50 million uninsured Americans—all at their local pharmacies. Just like HMOs and insurance plans in the private sector, participating states would simply leverage their purchasing power to secure better prices on behalf of their citizens. In that regard, our bill would explicitly authorize recent prescription drug affordability initiatives in states like Maryland, Maine, and Vermont by removing barriers that have to date not been embraced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In 2005, my home state of Maryland passed a state discount prescription drug plan law with the near unanimous support of our General Assembly and our then Republican Governor Robert Ehrlich. Unfortunately, that plan was subsequently blocked by the Bush Administration for reasons that have never been credibly explained. As a result, the broad bipartisan will of our state has been thwarted and hundreds of thousands of Marylanders have been deprived of needed access to affordable prescription drugs. In fact, according to an analysis of U.S. Census data conducted by Families USA and the Center for Policy Alternatives, an estimated half million Marylanders would become eligible for immediate prescription drug price relief under this legislation.

Since these plans are created at the state level, we don't believe states should have to ask the federal government's permission in order to establish them. For that reason, our legislation makes clear that Maryland—and any other state that chooses—can set up a state discount prescription drug plan without petitioning CMS for a Section 1115 waiver. Additionally, since these plans rely on government purchasing power rather than government outlays to produce price discounts, we remove CMS's somewhat contrived requirement that states expend some undefined amount of their own money as part of these plans. Beyond modest administrative costs, it simply isn't necessary.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a significant opportunity to empower states to deliver prescription drug affordability to millions of our citizens who don't currently have it. I hope Congress seizes this opportunity, and I invite my colleagues' support.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS G.
MASARYK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Thomas G. Masaryk and in commemoration of the statue that is being dedicated in his honor at the Bohemian National Hall in Cleveland.

Thomas Masaryk was both the founder and the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic. The Czechoslovak Republic was established in 1918 in the aftermath of the First World War; Thomas made two visits to Cleveland in his lifetime, one in 1902 and another in 1918 where he spoke at the National Bohemian Hall.

The statue is a plaster cast of a similar statue that is located in the Czech Cultural Garden at Rockefeller Park. The statue's curator, Frank L. Jarouch, has been a Cleveland resident all of his life and originally dedicated the statue to the Czech Garden in 1961.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise with me today in honor and recognition of the dedication of this statue of Thomas G. Masaryk. It is a benefit to the community that stands in memory of a man who chose to make a difference with his life.

THE FEDERAL FIREFIGHTER
FLEXIBILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Federal Firefighter Flexibility and Fairness Act which passed the House of Representatives by voice vote in the 111th Congress. This legislation would correct a longstanding disparity between professional firefighters who are employed by States, counties, or municipalities and Federal firefighters.

In 1985, Congress amended the Fair Labor Standards Act so that firefighters around the country could engage in a practice called "trade time." Trade time allows two firefighters, solely at their option and with the approval of their supervisor, to trade shifts without affecting the pay of either firefighter. The Congress made this change because firefighters work uncommon schedules involving 24-hour shifts and 72-hour workweeks, followed by a period of time away from the firehouse. Trade time enables firefighters to meet personal obligations such as attending a child's birthday or assisting a sick family member without exhausting their annual leave. It also ensures that firehouses across the country can maintain staffing requirements and keep our communities safe.

Federal firefighters are not covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act and therefore have been ineligible for trade time. I am re-introducing this legislation to amend Federal employee labor law to fix this problem.

Federal firefighters work side-by-side with their non-federal colleagues, so this is an issue of equity. Correcting this inequity will help Federal agencies recruit and retain fire-

fighters. Just like other firefighters, Federal firefighters risk their lives on a daily basis. They also accept the irregular hours that their jobs require. This legislation merely gives them some modest flexibility to balance that irregularity and meet their family obligations.

I hope my colleagues will support this bipartisan commonsense legislation.

THE RED ROUTE HIGHWAY
THROUGH THE TOWN OF GARNER

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, the Army Corps of Engineers is working to put a highway straight through the town of Garner, in my district, slicing it in half.

I rise today for the Town of Garner, whose voices must be heard.

The Red Route would pass through the living room of Brenda and Jerry Summer, older residents whose children and grandchildren have moved back to Garner to be close to them.

They say it will be the worst thing in the world if they had to move, and have no idea where they would go. Heartbroken, is how Mrs. Summer described the situation.

I rise for the seniors at the Village at Aversboro that moved in with the confidence they are buying their final home.

Instead, they're being put through an emotional period of stress, not knowing where they'll end up.

I stand for the thousands of families that would be displaced and have to find new homes.

I rise for the 140 year old Springfield Baptist Church, and the 2,000 parishioners, who would literally lose all of their property which is some fifty acres of land.

All because of the Clean Water Act and the Army Corps refusal to remove the Red Line from consideration.

The oppressive regulations under the Clean Water Act are stifling economic growth and job creation.

The Act allows a Dwarf Wedge Muscle and a portion of wetlands to paralyze a town and displace countless families and businesses.

It gives the Army Corps of Engineers the power to stop development and job growth in their tracks.

The situation is especially frustrating since the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Turnpike Authority say they will never build the highway.

Even though the road is not a real option, the Army Corps insists on moving forward, spending hundreds of thousands in taxpayer dollars to study road that will never be built.

Meanwhile, the town of Garner is "Closed for Business" and economically crippled as the state spends years studying a road with no future.

I'm not saying the highway should not be built.

I'm simply asking why the federal government is spending millions in tax payer dollars on a road with no future.

Common sense dictates the Army Corps should find a viable option.

Common sense dictates the Army Corps should remove the Red Line from the Map today.